

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No.: 10/716,422
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q78585

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for having indicated that claims 2-5 and 8-16 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Francia (U.S. Patent No. 6,279,457).

The subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 6, 7 and 17-20 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency.

All of the pending claims now include subject matter which the Examiner has indicated as allowable or depend from a claim including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the application is in condition for immediate allowance

Period for Response

The Office Action does not set a shortened statutory period. Therefore, the period for reply is the maximum statutory period of six (6) months from the April 25, 2006 mailing date of the Office Action. Since the period for reply is therefore October 25, 2006, this Amendment is timely filed without an extension fee.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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Date: August 25, 2006